



Governor's Coronavirus Working Group

February 14, 2022

MINUTES

Members In attendance:

Dave Jeppesen
Dr. David Pate
Bryan Mooney
Brad Richy
Carol Moehrle
Brian Whitlock
Supt. Sheri Ybarra

Staff In Attendance:

Kathie Brack, DHW
Elke Shaw-Tulloch, DHW
Dr. Chris Hahn, DHW
Sara Stover, Governor's Office
Don Duffy, PHD1
Melody Bowyer, PHD 5
Geri Rackow, PHD 6
Dr. Kathryn Turner, DHW
Sara Leeds, DHW
Kelly Petroff, DHW
Greg Stahl, DHW
Niki Forbing-Orr, DHW
Jennifer Palagi, DHW

Situation Update - Dr. Hahn, Division of Public Health (PPT available)

- US trends – cases declining
- Idaho trends - not declining as steeply as national trends
- 30,000 outstanding positive cases in PHDs to be investigated
- Idaho test positivity at 25.1% (coincides with a decrease in testing)
- Mask mandates in place in nearby states but likely to change shortly (WA, OR, CA)
- Boise School District board meeting tonight, expectation will make masking voluntary
- Transmission rates are still very high across US (98.1%)
- Vaccine administration trends dropping for 1st, 2nd and booster doses
- Idaho lags behind in most demographic categories in US, except boosters in 65+ age group
- FDA advisory committee cancelled tomorrow's meeting on Pfizer for 6 mo. -4 yr.-olds cancelled. No new safety questions, still collecting data

CSC and Critical Blood Supply Update - Elke Shaw-Tulloch, Division of Public Health

- PHDs 3,4 and 5: CSC criteria and blood supply shortages continue to exist
- Critical Blood Supply Task Force convened to study system of blood supply across the country and state allocation
- Red Cross is national collection point; Vitalent supplies to state/hospitals
- State supplies are allocated
- Idaho hospitals weren't able to get all the blood products needed
- St Luke's developed a blood supply conservation strategy and shared with all Idaho hospitals
- Dr. Witte and Dr. Hamso have worked with SIDMAC to create blood products for patient care strategy and guidelines
- Critical Blood Supply Task Force developed strategy to most effectively transport blood product supplies between hospitals in Idaho
- Transportation sub-group of SIDMAC
- Feb 23 meeting of the Critical Blood Supply Task Force will coordinate needs of Idaho hospitals

Questions – Dr. Pate: I had been hearing that the 6 mo.–2 years old response was robust; why didn't FDA proceed with 6 mo.-2 year-olds? **Dr. Hahn:** No one knows. Pfizer asked to pull it, probably to make sure the data is unassailable. **Dr. Pate:** In the 2-4 age group, there was not a big enough dose to get the optimal response; why didn't they just increase the dose? Is there a separate study? **Dr. Hahn:** The 3rd dose data is looking promising and it looks like the age group will be treated together as a group. **Dir. Jeppesen:** The WG will meet in March and we may schedule an in-person meeting April with the Governor and then move to call-of-the-chair meetings.

Schools Update – Supt. Ybarra, State Department of Education

- Districts continue to see short term (several days) closures.
- Districts have all prioritized in-person learning
- Currently 11 schools in hybrid out of 662 schools
- Boise School District meeting tonight, expectation it will move to optional masking
- Many schools still struggling with staff shortages.
 - Lakeland School District is offering contracts to substitute teachers
 - Some schools hiring full-time substitutes who are moved around the district to fill vacancies as needed
 - Some schools partnering the Internet Academy to provide a hybrid option
- \$1000 bonus Supt. Ybarra requested from legislature seems to have good support
- Federal relief monies have been spent on upgrades to HVAC and purifiers, bonus pay, technology and internet access, training and professional development, additional sanitation and PPE, desk plexi-glass barriers
- Covid coordinator to do reporting to federal government

Questions – Dr. Hahn: Are there other school districts (outside of Boise) that require masks?
Supt. Ybarra: Most districts are in optional mode. Young children need to see teachers' mouths

to learn to read. In school visits, I am not seeing very many kids in masks. **Carole Moehrle:** Moscow School District is still requiring masks.

IOEM Update – Dir. Richy, Idaho Office of Emergency Management

- GSA contracting with ACI federal for \$16M a year ago
- ACI provided 2 sub-contractors in Idaho for hospital staff
- \$106M currently for staffing support

Questions – Brian Whitlock: Dir Richy has done a very good job of coordinating with hospitals. **Dir. Richy:** Currently 473 staff coming into state are on 60-day contract. All expenses are covered through FEMA until the end of March, then we expect a state cost share, likely 90/10 split unless Biden administration doesn't continue the 100% payments. **Dir. Jeppesen:** IOEM has done an impressive job in helping keep hospitals staffed.

Hospital Capacity Update – Brian Whitlock, Idaho Hospital Association

- St Al's indicated staffing and blood supply have stabilized due to state support
- St Al's will consider de-activating CSC; test positivity 21% and blood supply stabilized
- Resources are tight around state
- St. Luke's - "stabilizing in a bad place"
- MOCC call today 20 ICU beds around state
- Kootenai Memorial - 78 Covid, 270 census, no extra beds
- St. Al's - 92% Covid admits are unvaccinated
- St Luke's - 2 available beds in system
- Portneuf - No ICU, no med/surg beds
- EIRMC - No ICU beds
- Most hospitals should be okay with recourses available, if this trend is stable

Questions – Dir. Jeppesen: Will be scheduling CSC Activation Committee tomorrow to discuss de-activating CSC.

Roundtable – No comments.

Adjourn: 11:46